

Whatever somebody was going to give us, we took. The...Senator Beutler asked if environmental concerns had been a concern when we were discussing acquisition of the rail line for purposes of operating a railroad and they certainly were because one of the expressed requirements in the review that was to be done by the railway counsel, if the State of Nebraska was to have any interest in acquiring the line was a review of the environmental liabilities because we knew about the turntable at Long Pine. We knew about possible problems in the rail yards at Chadron and we were quite concerned about those liabilities. But it was not mandatory that we acquire the C&NW line to operate as a railroad. We would have had time to review and decide whether it's what we wanted to do after we knew the extent or the possible liability for environmental cleanup if that was to occur. That was not the posture. That is not the way the bill was presented to us to obtain it as a trail. So that's the reason I think the amendment is important and I would urge your support for it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. You have heard the closing on the Wickersham amendment to the Beutler amendment. We will now vote on the amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the Wickersham amendment to the Beutler amendment. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted on the Wickersham amendment to the Beutler amendment? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wickersham's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The Wickersham amendment to the Beutler amendment has been adopted. We are now back on the Beutler amendment. Senator Dierks, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I'd like to ask Senator Beutler to explain a couple of things for me if he would.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond to a question, please.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Beutler, on your fiscal note you have several estimates of...or you have, it's in the fiscal note anyway, that there are several estimates as to the cost. I